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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most merciful God, You have been better to us than we deserve. Accept the grateful labors of our lawmakers as they seek to meet the challenges of our times. May they not become weary because of the obstacles they encounter but trust You to order their steps. Hear even the silent prayers of their hearts as they give their time and strength to make America an instrument of Your purposes. Lord, help them to remember it is righteousness that exalts a nation but that sin is an equal opportunity destroyer. May they humble themselves in prayer, seeking Your face as they turn from evil, so You will hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 2, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Keith Harper to be U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

### CARING FOR VETERANS

Our esteemed colleague, the chairman of the Budget Committee, PATTY MURRAY, has said, "Caring for our veterans is the duty of a grateful nation."

She knows of what she speaks because she led that committee in a very vibrant, positive way as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I have no doubt every Member of this body agrees with the sentiment she expressed. There is a big difference between nodding one's head in approval and actually doing something to take care of our veterans.

The chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee today is Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, and he is doing something to help our veterans. The junior Senator from Vermont has introduced a bill to ensure that American veterans are getting the care they need. This legislation allows veterans facing long delays in health care to seek outside help, and they can go to private doctors, community health centers or military bases. Additionally, this bill authorizes the VA to use emergency funding to hire new doctors and nurses, which are badly needed.

Senator SANDERS' legislation increases accountability through the Department of Veterans Affairs, holding senior officials responsible for poor job performance. This is very good legislation. This bill will improve the manner in which the United States of America cares for its veterans, and I hope all Members will support this. In light of the shocking reports of inappropriate practices at the VA, and especially their hospitals, every Senator should support this legislation.

Last week the Veterans Affairs inspector general's office released its report detailing many troubling systemic failures which are unnecessarily putting our Nation's veterans at risk. They are so wrong, and they are putting our Nation's veterans at risk. Instead of receiving the proper care they deserve, thousands of combat veterans have been languishing on nonexistent waiting lists at a VA hospital in Arizona.

The inspector general's report declared that many of these men and women who have been relegated to health care limbo are "at risk of being lost or forgotten." The brave veterans of our Nation's Armed Services should never be lost or forgotten. These soldiers went to war and pledged not to leave their brothers- and sisters-in-arms behind. Now, in their moment of need, some of our most vulnerable veterans have been left behind. We must

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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